

## Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:HHTSAUNDERS/HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S-O:DLMAK

P - MR. SISCO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 239609

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY, XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT ASAD

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO PRESIDENT ASAD.
2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE FURTHER CLARIFYING THE SYRIAN POSITION TOWARD FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. FROM OUR TALKS TOGETHER AND FROM MY MOST RECENT MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM, I BELIEVE I HAVE UNDERSTOOD YOUR POSITION AND YOUR OBJECTIVES. AS I HAVE SAID IN OUR CONVERSATIONS, WE SHARE THE SAME OBJECTIVE OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. OUR DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH HAVE

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RESULTED ONLY FROM OUR RESPECTIVE ANALYSES OF WHAT COURSE

OF ACTION IS MOST LIKELY TO PRODUCE MOVEMENT TOWARD OUR  
COMMON GOAL.

IT REMAINS OUR CONVICTION THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO  
WORK TOGETHER IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR CONTINUING THE  
NEGOTIATIONS. FOR THIS REASON, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE  
THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU AND PRESIDENT FORD  
TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND DISCUSS THESE  
MATTERS. THERE ARE MANY INTANGIBLES IN THE PRESENT  
SITUATION WHICH I BELIEVE YOU WOULD CONSIDER IMPORTANT  
IF WE COULD DESCRIBE THEM FULLY TO YOU.

PRESIDENT FORD HAS THEREFORE ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT  
HE IS NOW PLANNING TO BE IN EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE OF  
NOVEMBER AND THAT HE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
MEET YOU AT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY PLACE BEGINNING  
IN THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 17 AND CONTINUING THE TALKS  
ON NOVEMBER 18, IF THAT WERE CONVENIENT FOR YOU. PRESIDENT  
FORD WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON DURING THE  
AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 18.

AS THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE BOTH STATED ON PREVIOUS  
OCCASIONS, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO CONTINUED PROGRESS  
TOWARD PEACE AND WE BELIEVE ALSO THAT GOOD RELATIONS  
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS END.  
I BELIEVE A MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND PRESIDENT FORD COULD  
BE IMPORTANT IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR FURTHER STEPS  
TOWARD THAT GOAL.

WARM REGARDS,

HENRY A. KISSINGER.

END TEXT.

3. IN CONVEYING ABOVE MESSAGE, WOULD YOU PLEASE MAKE  
POINT TACTFULLY THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO FIRM UP  
PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE PROMPTLY AND THEREFORE WE WOULD  
APPRECIATE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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